



Rajmund Galon

geographer, a member of the Polish Academy of Sciences, professor of the Nicholas Copernicus University in Toruń, died on June 19, 1986 at the age of eighty.

For many years he had been a member of the Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences. His scientific work in this field concerned the history of Pleistocene seas in northern Poland, the origin and history of the Baltic Sea, and especially the investigations of old shorelines. Prof. Galon had dealt with these problems for at least half a century, although they did not constitute his main area of interest. As early as 1934 Professor Galon published a study entitled 'Lower Vistula valley, its shape and development viewed against the background of lower Powiśle'; it presented the results of his own research on sediments, containing the Pleistocene fauna, formed in the marine environment. Two years later he presented those investigations at a congress of the International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA) in Vienna. After 1945 Professor Galon became interested in geomorphological classification of the Polish coast and numerous problems of physical geography of the

sea and coastal zone. He organized and headed for many years the Geographical and Geological Section of the Polish Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research and was involved in international co-operation in the field of investigating old shorelines within the International Union for Quaternary Research and the International Geographical Union. Those activities brought manifold results: scientific—in the form of numerous publications (nearly 200 articles and books) by the Professor and his co-workers, organizational—in the form of plentiful national and international conferences and scientific life, and pedagogical—in the form of teaching of well-trained personnel, prepared to carry out investigations of the Baltic as an object of general geography. Hence, Professor Galon created the Polish school of sea bottom and coast geomorphology, being a part of dynamic geomorphology and palaeogeography. First of all, however, he created a magnificent school of glacial geomorphology which gained international appreciation through further achievements of his disciples. Those varied activities were, among others, a result of great scientific and organizational inventiveness on the part of Professor Galon, as well as his vitality visible until the last days of his life. Each problem, even seemingly small, was presented by the Professor against a broad natural background and in relation to the whole environment under study. His lectures and papers were similar in character—always informative, pointing to further specific steps to be taken, determining perspectives for research and stimulating it. He was an undisputed Master—as regards science and teaching—and he will remain one for those who had known him and continue his scientific ideas to this day.

The Polish science lost a great representative, and we all a great man.